

## Rainier Beach Neighborhood Advisory Committee (NAC)

### MEETING SUMMARY

August 17, 2011 6:30 pm-8:30 pm

Southeast Seattle Senior Center

4655 South Holly Street, 98118

#### Attendees

**NAC Members:**

Cheryl dos-Remedios, Christie Coxley, David Savion, Gregory Davis, Harry Hoffman, Margaret Yellowwolf, Trey West, Vallerie Fisher

**Community Members:** Bob Rosenberger, Ken Gillgren, Sahla Talley

**Partners:** Julia Walton, Urban Design Consultant

**City Staff:** Nora Liu (DPD), Sebhat Tenna (DON)

#### Agenda review

- Minor changes to the agenda were noted

#### Urban Design Discussion about Station Area and Linkages (by Julia Walton, Urban Design Consultant)

- Julia has looked at input from the community meetings and will come forward in September with an urban design framework, including recommendations for the station area and also the social connections/social space recommendations.
- NAC members broke into two groups for discussion on removing barriers and provide input on enhancing connectivity within and between “pearls” – areas where community congregates, as well as between other destinations. Also looking to improve access to shoreline, and create multi-cultural center/youth center.
- NAC Report outs:
  - Concern over paving features: discourages walking – example Safeway parking lot;
  - Shorten paths, add aesthetic features, art – lay out paths to afford view of water (see Knight Foundation study showing why people become attached to places: <http://www.soulofthecommunity.org/>);
  - Lack of way-finding signage;
  - Work with business owners to increase street appeal, e.g., arts such as cultural dance steps in sidewalks;
  - Lack of streetscape appeal on Henderson – new business awnings, business street appeal along Henderson;
  - Reprogram parking lots on shoreline to other uses: farmers market, etc.;
  - Station area not appealing;

- Make proximity to Lake Washington known or visible, e.g., lighthouse;
- Use murals to liven up streetscape;
- Fences around schools in south end – what’s the purpose?

### **Update on Station Area/Development**

- Tabled until next month’s meeting

### **Speakers Bureau**

- For the purpose of trying to build ownership in the Neighborhood Plan, NAC members are asked to identify organizations doing work in Rainier Valley and:
  - notify of NAC work and Neighborhood Plan Update process;
  - ask for their participation in community meetings.

### **Public Comment**

- People around Henderson Street Station are upset over residential parking zone: having to pay fees. Many are low-income and can’t afford this. Would like to see a Park and Ride or garage instead, which could include coffee shop, or other business/attractions.
- There will be a gallery showing of Freedom Net Photo Voice teen project at the Back2School Bash event illustrating community assets in the neighborhood. Five Youth will also be attending the MLK Memorial dedication producing live-video/tweeting from the event. If NAC members are interested in participating/being a news source, please check out Freedom Net web site.
- Challenge in Rainier Beach is lack of a center. Only two possibilities: High School and Lake Washington Apartments.
- Safeway and SARS are limited on what they can accomplish. Lake Washington Apartments could be a true mixed-use development and tie in recreational, residential and commercial.

### **Review and Move Forward on Consultant Scope of Work**

- Nora provided a second draft Consultant Scope of Work paper that resulted from NAC subgroup meeting with Rudy, Harry, David, Mohamed and Cheryl.
- Discussion statements:
  - NAC member stated that gathering spaces currently exist that are not being utilized. Would like to see this issue looked into as well.
  - NAC members discussed whether cultural center was an actual physical location.
  - NAC member stressed the importance that center make all cultures feel welcome.
  - Nora asked for feedback on community group empowerment vs leadership development. NAC member stated “empowerment” felt “squishy”.
- All NAC members present approved moving forward with the hiring process, but as there was not a quorum, final approval will be made via e-mail.

## Wrap up

- **NAC picnic:**
  - Would be held in September on a Saturday or Sunday; including family members and POLs.
  - Could be at the Rainier Farm (combining it with volunteer work as part of picnic), or in conjunction with Rainier Beach Art Walk on Saturday, September 17th.
  - For final details, Sebhat will follow it up online.
- **Back-to-School Bash:**
  - NAC members are asked to assist in staffing the Neighborhood Plan Update table.
  - Will be held at the Beer Sheva Park on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, from 1 to 4 p.m.
- **Phase III Community Open House:**
  - Thursday, October 27, 2011 at South Shore K-8 School from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
- **Feet First Project:**
  - Seeking volunteers from NAC to assist with identifying locations to include in walking map of Rainier Beach. Have been asked to make note of cultural assets.